

Australian National Botanic Gardens



Growing Native Plants

No.14



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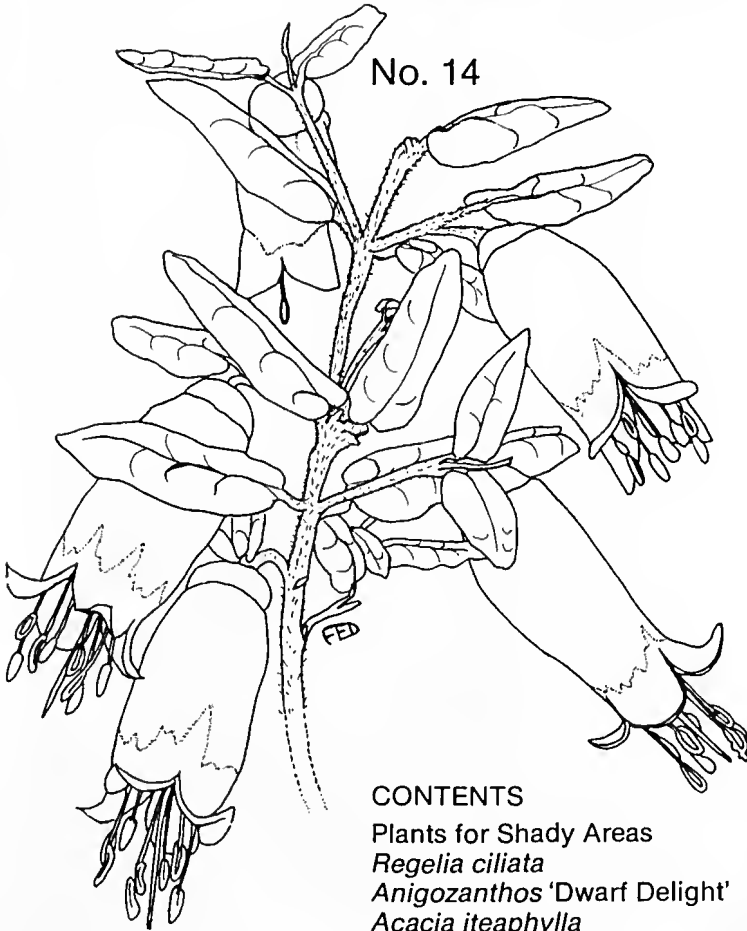
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Effie Mullins

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Plants for shady areas

Shade is essential in the garden for comfort and relaxation during summer when temperatures soar. However, problems often arise in areas where shade is cast by a house wall or by overhanging trees and dense shrubs if the plants which have been selected are unsuitable for these conditions. As a result they often become problem areas and appear neglected and untidy.

The landscaping potential of such areas can inspire a number of possibilities whether a formal garden setting or one with a natural bush setting is required. With a little imagination a small shaded corner can be transformed into a restful retreat by including a selection of suitable shrubs and ferns which provide colour, texture and fragrance. Features such as moss-covered logs and lichen-covered rocks can be positioned strategically to further enhance a garden with a bush setting.

Although light is required for almost all plants to grow, some require more than others for their normal development. When choosing plants for low light areas, it is advisable to make a selection from those which grow in similar conditions in their natural environment.

There are many interesting Australian native plants which can be grown successfully in these locations, and balance and harmony can be achieved if species which blend with the surrounding environment are selected.

Sites which are shaded by a house wall often provide an ideal setting for ferns although some protection from drying winds is required. In addition, if there are nearby shrubs or trees to further enclose

an area, there is less chance of damage to plants by frost. Alternatively, a softening effect can be achieved by including ferns to complement other plants so that even during winter when gardens tend to look drab a fresh green colour is retained.

Plants with strap-shaped leaves such as *Helmholtzia*, *Lomandra* and *Dianella* are useful for breaking up lines and look very effective when planted beside a shady pool or against a tree trunk, boulder or group of rocks.

It is often difficult to create a garden in the dappled shade or filtered sunlight beneath a large tree because, apart from the lack of light, the roots provide competition to the establishment of other plants. However, some ground cover species and shrubs can be grown in these locations if a good layer of topsoil is added to the area. Care should be taken not to alter the original soil level around the tree trunk as it may be detrimental to the tree.

Helmholtzia glaberrima



M. FAGG

Plants listed below, which will grow with very little sun throughout the year, have been divided into three categories:

- plants for damp shady areas
- plants for dry shady areas
- plants for heavy shade.

For the successful cultivation of these plants some important factors to observe are that good drainage is provided and that follow-up maintenance of plants is carried out while they are in the developing stage. Most will not tolerate boggy conditions or bad drainage particularly in damp shady areas so it is important to improve drainage where necessary by raising the beds to a higher level. The soil should be prepared prior to planting and if it is composed of heavy clay it can be lightened by incorporating coarse river sand and organic matter. Gypsum can be used to improve the structure of some clay soils and increase their permeability. In addition, a good mulch placed around the plants will assist in conserving moisture and also enriches the soil as it breaks down.

Plants benefit from regular maintenance throughout their development, particularly in the first two years. Occasional light pruning, generally in spring and autumn or whenever required for shaping, will increase their vigour and make them bushier. Application of a complete fertiliser* in spring and autumn is also beneficial.

Plants for damp shady areas

Astartea fascicularis: small spreading shrub to 1 m high with fine needle-like leaves and small pinkish-white tea-tree like flowers. The flowers are clustered around the stems and occur intermittently throughout the year. A useful cut flower.

Asterolasia hexapetala: compact shrub 1–1.5 m high with soft grey foliage and starry-white flowers in spring.

Baeckea linifolia (swamp baeckea): graceful pendulous shrub to 2 m high with fine foliage and small star-like white flowers in spring and summer.

Bauera rubioides (river rose): spreading shrub to 1 m high with small narrow



Baeckea linifolia

M. FAGG

leaflets arranged in circles around the stems and mauve-pink flowers in spring and summer.

Billardiera scandens (apple berry): small twining plant which can be used as a ground cover. The cream tubular flowers are followed by fleshy edible fruits.

Boronia ledifolia: attractive rounded shrub to 1 m high which bears numerous deep pink flowers along the stems in late winter and early spring.

Boronia megastigma (brown boronia): shrub to 1.5 m high with aromatic foliage and fragrant cup-shaped flowers varying in colour from yellow to dark brown on the outside with yellow inside the flower. Flowers are produced in late winter and early spring.

Brachysema celsianum (syn. *B. lanceolatum*) (Swan River pea): spreading shrub to 1.5 m high with dark green silver-backed leaves and clusters of large, red pea-shaped flowers in spring.

Correa 'Dusky Bells': probable hybrid between *C. pulchella* and *C. reflexa* is a small spreading shrub 0.3–1 m high and 2–4 m across with dense growth to ground level. The tubular pale pink flowers appear in spring and summer. Useful ground cover.

Correa 'Mannii': hybrid between *C. pulchella* and *C. reflexa* is a dense shrub 1–2 m high and 2–3 m across with dusky pink tubular flowers. *Correa* 'Mannii' is at its best in the winter months.

Correa reflexa: variable shrub from 0.5–1.5 m high with tubular yellowish-green to deep red flowers tipped with yellow.

Crowea 'Poorinda Ecstasy': hybrid

* See Appendix

between *C. exalata* and *C. saligna*. It is a hardy, ornamental shrub 1 m high and 1 m across with pale pink star-shaped flowers.

Darwinia citriodora: low bushy shrub to 0.6 m high and 1 m across with small blue-green, lemon-scented leaves and heads of small red and yellow flowers borne at the end of the branchlets in spring and summer.

Dianella tasmanica (flax lily): plant with flax-like leaves and bright blue flowers with prominent yellow anthers in November followed by bright blue berries in January. It will grow hard against the base of trees.

Epacris longiflora (native fuchsia): erect to straggling shrub to 1 m high with small crowded pointed leaves and red tubular flowers tipped with white. The flowers appear intermittently throughout the year.

Eriostemon myoporoides (long-leaf wax-flower): variable, neat rounded shrub 1–2 m high with smooth, usually oblong aromatic leaves. Bears a profusion of star-like flowers in spring which are white tinged with pink. Very hardy.

Geitonoplesium cymosum (scrambling lily): twining plant with slender leaves and clusters of small greenish-white flowers in spring and summer followed by attractive blue-black berries.

Grevillea diminuta: neat spreading shrub to 1 m high and 1 m across with pendulous clusters of rusty red flowers in spring.

Isopogon anethifolius (drumsticks): upright shrub to 2 m high with divided fern-like leaves and globular heads of yellow flowers in spring and early summer.

Lomatia tinctoria: upright shrub 1 m high and 0.6 m across with divided leaves and sprays of cream flowers in summer.

Melaleuca erubescens (rosy paper-bark): shrub to 2 m high with mauve bottlebrush flowers in summer.

M. spicigera: rounded shrub to 1.5 m high with blue-green leaves and clusters of pinkish-mauve to white flowers in spring.

Prostanthera incana (velvet mint bush): spreading shrub 1–2 m high with aromatic foliage and terminal spikes of mauve or white flowers in spring.



Grevillea diminuta

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P. melissifolia: strongly aromatic shrub to 1.5–2 m high and 2–3 m across with oval leaves and lilac flowers.

Zieria cytisoides: compact rounded shrub to 1.5 m high with aromatic grey-green foliage and pinkish-white flowers in spring.

Plants for dry shady areas

Acacia beckleri: erect shrub to 2 m high with leaves to 120 mm long and fragrant, large globular golden yellow flower heads in winter.

Acacia drummondii (Drummond's wattle): attractive neat rounded shrub to 2 m high with tiny dark green leaves and creamy-yellow cylindrical flower spikes in spring.

Allocasuarina torulosa (rose she oak): small tree to 15 m high with fine drooping branches, often colouring purple or red in winter. Bark is rough and corky. A good specimen plant.

Baeckea ramosissima (rosy heath myrtle):

small shrub to 0.3 m high with deep pink flowers 10 mm across occurring in spring.

Boronia anemonifolia (sticky boronia): small shrub to 0.7 m high with loose clusters of small pinkish-white flowers in spring and summer.

B. molloyae (syn. *B. elatior*) (tall boronia): compact shrub to 1.5 m high with pink cup-shaped flowers in spring.

B. muelleri: shrub to 1.5 m high with pinnate leaves and pale pink star-shaped flowers which are borne in profusion in spring.

Clematis glycinoides: vigorous climber with shiny leaves and creamy-white flowers in spring which are followed by attractive long-plumed seeds.

Correa baeuerlenii (chef's hat correa): compact rounded shrub to 1.5 m high with glossy dark green leaves and green bell-shaped flowers which occur in winter.

Crowea exalata: very attractive shrub 0.3–0.6 m high with bright pink star-shaped flowers which are borne along the stems through summer and autumn.

C. saligna: outstanding plant which flowers throughout the year forming a neat rounded shrub to 1 m high with willow-like leaves and deep pink star-shaped flowers.

Crowea 'Festival': hybrid between *C. exalata* and *C. saligna*. It forms a small, hardy, dense shrub to 1.5 m high with deep pink flowers.

Dianella revoluta: forms clumps of strap-like leaves and bright blue flowers with yellow anthers followed by bright blue berries.

Eriostemon verrucosus (fairy waxflower): attractive open shrub to 0.6 m high and 1.2 m across with aromatic, warty foliage and stems. Numerous white flowers which are pink in bud, cover the bush in spring and summer.

Eriostemon 'Stardust': hybrid between *E. myoporoides* and *E. verrucosus*. It grows to 1.5 m high and has warty branches. The white flowers are produced in abundance in spring and summer.

Grevillea buxifolia (grey spider flower): beautiful open shrub to 1.5 m high with



Crowea exalata

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hairy grey and red spidery flowers which occur throughout the year.

G. capitellata: shrub to 1 m high with dense clusters of deep red 'spider' flowers.

G. speciosa subsp. *dimorpha* (flame grevillea): neat shrub to 1 m high with olive-like dark green leaves and brilliant red 'spider' flowers in winter and spring.

G. lavandulacea (lavender grevillea): variable shrub to 1 m high with grey-green leaves. Flowers vary in colour from deep pink to lilac red.

Hakea bucculenta (red pokers): upright shrub to 4 m high with long narrow leaves and long spikes of striking scarlet flowers in winter.

Hakea rostrata (beaked hakea): stiff rounded shrub to 2 m high with white flowers in spring followed by interesting beaked fruits.

Hibbertia empetrifolia: small spreading shrub to 0.6 m high and 1.5 m across with dark green foliage and brilliant yellow

flowers in spring. It has a slight tendency to climb when planted against a tree trunk.

Lomandra longifolia: plant forming clumps to 0.7 m high with arching, narrow, strap-like leaves and spikes of crowded cream flowers which are perfumed.

Micromyrtus ciliata: forms vary from low spreading to upright and can be 1 m high by 1.5 m across. This plant has small fine foliage and masses of tiny white flowers which eventually turn deep pink in spring.

Pandorea pandorana (wonga-wonga vine): graceful, vigorous, twining climber with glossy leaflets and tubular flowers varying in colour from white to maroon or gold, with a striped or spotted throat. Flowering period is in spring.

Persoonia pinifolia (pine-leaf geebung): graceful pendulous shrub to 4 m high with soft pine-like leaves and small dense clusters of yellow flowers followed by clusters of attractive berry-like fruits which are edible.

Pimelea ferruginea: neat rounded shrub to 1 m high with pink cushion-like clusters of bright pink flowers which cover the bush in spring.

Pultenaea flexilis (graceful bush-pea): tall shrub to 4 m high which bears profuse yellow and red pea flowers in spring.

Regelia ciliata: attractive shrub to 1.3 m high with small oval leaves and small fluffy oval heads of mauve flowers which last for long periods during spring and summer.

Westringia glabra: upright, open shrub to 1.5 m high with narrow leaves and bluish-mauve flowers in spring.

Plants for heavy shade

Australina muelleri: low spreading ground cover with attractive dark green foliage and insignificant flowers. Requires plenty of moisture.

Correa baeuerlenii (chef's cap correa): compact rounded shrub to 1.5 m high with glossy dark green leaves and green bell-shaped flowers which occur in winter.

C. decumbens: a low spreading shrub 0.3 m high and up to 3 m across with narrow leaves and slender, tubular red



Pultenaea flexilis

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flowers which are tipped with green and occur throughout the year.

Correa 'Gwen': hybrid between *C. alba* and *C. reflexa* is a low spreading shrub with attractive oval-shaped leaves, shiny dark green above and light green on the underside. The white, slightly tubular flowers are suffused with pink and occur over a prolonged period.

Dianella tasmanica (flax lily): forms clumps of strap-like leaves with bright blue flowers with prominent yellow anthers in November followed by attractive bright blue berries in January.

Eriostemon myoporoides (long-leaf wax-flower): rounded shrub 1–2 m high with smooth, usually oblong aromatic leaves. Bears a profusion of star-like flowers in spring which are white tinged with pink. Very hardy but tends to be open rather than compact in dense shade.

Fieldia australis: small climbing plant with tubular greenish-yellow flowers followed by succulent white berries.

Helmholtzia glaberrima: beautiful plant with sword-shaped leaves 1.5 m long. The plant bears soft-pink pyramidal flower spikes on the end of long stems.

Indigofera australis (austral indigo): attractive spreading or upright plant to 2 m high with bluish-green divided leaves and sprays of pink to purple (occasionally white) pea-shaped flowers in spring.

Jasminum lineare: shrub or semi-climber with some twining stems. The leaflets are narrow and held in threes. The fragrant tubular cream flowers appear chiefly in autumn.

Lomatia myricoides: rounded shrub or small tree to 4 m high with dark green leaves and short sprays of cream flowers in summer. The fruits are an added attraction.

Lomandra longifolia: plant forming clumps to 0.7 m high with arching, narrow, strap-like leaves and spikes of crowded cream flowers which are perfumed.

Melaleuca capitata: rounded shrub to 2.5 m high and 2 m across with dark green leaves and rounded heads of fluffy cream flowers in spring.

Prostanthera lasianthos (Victorian Christmas bush): quick growing shrub varying in height from 2-8 m with strongly aromatic leaves and large loose sprays of white fragrant flowers tinged with pink, purple or mauve produced in summer.

Tasmannia lanceolata (syn. *Drimys lanceolata*) (mountain pepper): rounded shrub to 2 m high with long shiny leaves and red stems. The creamy flowers are followed by globular, purple-black berries.

Name derivations

Acacia beckleri. *Acacia* — from the Greek name for *Acacia arabica* (a spiny species), *akakia*, from *akis*, a sharp point; *beckleri* — after Dr Herman Beckler (1828-1914), botanist and medical officer, who collected the type specimen near the Barrier Range in 1861.

Acacia drummondii: *drummondii* — after James Drummond (?1784-1863), first Government Botanist of Western Australia, 1829-34, settled at Toodyay, collected in Western Australia from the Murchison River to the south coast.

Allocasuarina torulosa: *Allocasuarina* — from the Greek *allos*, strange or different, and the genus *Casuarina*, i.e. different from *Casuarina*; *torulosa* — from the Latin *torus*, any round swelling or protruberance, meaning cylindrical with bulges or contractions at intervals, referring to the stems.

Astartea fascicularis: *Astartea* — after Astarte, a Phoenician goddess, later identified with Aphrodite/Venus, to whom myrtles were sacred; *fascicularis* — from the Latin *fasciculus*, a little bundle, referring to the apparently bunched arrangement of the leaves of new shoots.

Asterolasia hexapetala: *Asterolasia* — from the Greek *aster*, star, and *lasios*, shaggy, referring to the stellate hairs covering the plant; *hexapetala* — from the Greek *hex*, six, and *petalon*, leaf, or, in botany, petal.

Australina muelleri: *Australina* — from the Latin *australis*, southern, i.e. from the South Land, Australia; *muelleri* — after Sir Ferdinand J.H. Mueller (1825-96), Government Botanist



Correa baeuerlenii



Lomandra longifolia

in Victoria during 1852–96, an extremely distinguished scientist of that period.

Baeckea linifolia: *Baeckea* — in honour of Abraham Baeck (1713–1795), Swedish physician and naturalist, a friend of Linnaeus; *linifolia* — from the Latin *linum*, flax and *folium*, leaf.

Baeckea ramosissima: *ramosissima* — from the Latin, *ramosus*, branched, and the suffix *-issimus*, most, referring to the much-branched habit of the plant.

Bauera rubioides: *Bauera* — after the brothers Bauer, Franz and Ferdinand, fl. c. 1780–1820, Austrian botanical artists; *rubioides* — from the genus *Rubia* and the Greek suffix *-oides*, like, i.e. like *Rubia*.

Billardiera scandens: *Billardiera* — after J.J.H. de Labillardiere (1755–1834), a French botanist; *scandens* — from the Latin *scandere*, to climb.

Boronia anemonifolia: *Boronia* — after Francesco Borone (1769–94), assistant to several prominent botanists; *anemonifolia* — from the genus *Anemone* and the Latin *folium*, leaf, i.e. with leaves like those of *Anemone*.

Boronia ledifolia: *ledifolia* — from the genus *Ledum* and the Latin *folium*, leaf, i.e. with leaves like those of *Ledum*.

Boronia megastigma: *megastigma* — from the Greek *megas*, great or large, and *stigma*, mark or spot, in botany, stigma.

Boronia molloyae: *molloyae* — after Georgiana Molloy (1805–43), an early settler and plant collector at Augusta and the Vasse, Western Australia.

Boronia muelleri: *muelleri* — after Sir Ferdinand J.H. Mueller (1825–96), Government Botanist in Victoria during 1852–96, an extremely distinguished scientist of that period.

Brachysema lanceolatum: *Brachysema* — from the Greek *brachys*, short, and *sema*, sign, mark or taken as of a shield or standard, referring to the upright petal at the back of the flowers; *lanceolatum* — from the Latin *lancia*, lance, referring to the leaves.

Clematis glycnoides: *Clematis* — from the Greek name given to *Clematis vitalba*, a species native to Greece; *glycinoides* — from the genus *Glycine* and the Greek suffix *-oides*, like, i.e. resembling *Glycine*.

Correa baeuerlenii: *Correa* — after J.F. Correa da Serra (1751–1823), Royal Academy of Sciences, Lisbon, student of botany and other sciences; *baeuerlenii* — after W. Baeuerlen, who collected the type specimen on the Clyde River, NSW, in 1884.

Correa pulchella: *pulchella* — from the Latin, small and beautiful.

Correa reflexa: *reflexa* — from the Latin *reflecto*, to bend or turn back, referring to the bracts subtending the flower.

Crowea exalata: *Crowea* — after James Crowe (1750–1807), a surgeon who studied mosses, fungi and willows and wrote on Norfolk plants; *exalata* — from the Latin prefix *ex-*, to free from in the sense of without or not, and *alatus*, winged.

Crowea saligna: *saligna* — from the Latin, made of willow-wood, i.e. like a willow.

Darwinia citriodora: *Darwinia* — after Francis Darwin (1731–1802), grandfather of Charles Darwin and author of *Botanic Garden: The Temple of Nature*; *citriodora* — from the Latin *citrus*, the citrus or citron tree, and *odorus*, scented, i.e. lemon-scented.

Dianella revoluta: *Dianella* — diminutive of Diana, the name of the Roman goddess of hunting, as the first species described was found in woods in southern France, and is known as 'dianelle des bois'; *revoluta* — from the Latin *revolutus*, rolled back or down, referring to the margins of the leaves, which are rolled back on themselves.

Dianella tasmanica: *tasmanica* — a Latin adjective formed from the modern name Tasmania, as the species was first described from Tasmania.

Epacris longiflora: *Epacris* — from the Greek *epi*, upon, and *akros*, a summit, from the habitat of those species first described; *longiflora* — from the Latin *longus*, long, and *flos*, flower.

Eriostemon myoporoides: *Eriostemon* — from the Greek *erion*, wool, and *stemon*, thread, or, in botany, stamen; *myoporoides* — from the genus *Myoporum* and the Greek suffix *-oides*, like, i.e. like *Myoporum*.

Eriostemon verrucosus: *verrucosus* — from the Latin, warty.

Fieldia australis: *Fieldia* — after Barron Field (1786–1846), judge of the NSW Supreme Court, who sent plants and drawings to Hooker from NSW; *australis* — from the Latin, southern.

Geitonoplesium cymosum: *Geitonoplesium* — from the Greek, *geiton*, a neighbour, and *plesios*, near, referring to the close relationship of this genus to the genus *Luzuriaga*; *cymosum* — from the Greek, *cyma*, a wave or anything swollen; in botany, a cyme is a flowerhead in which the central axis stops growing and produces a flower, so that the oldest flower is at the centre.

Grevillea buxifolia: *Grevillea* — after C.F. Greville (1749–1809), an English patron of

botany; *buxifolia* — from the Latin *buxus*, box-tree, and *folium*, leaf.

Grevillea capitellata: *capitellata* — from the Latin *capitulum*, a little head, referring to the inflorescence.

Grevillea dimlnuta: *diminuta* — from the Latin *deminutio*, a diminution, referring to the flowers, which are smaller than those of *G. victoriae*, a related species. ***Grevillea lavandulacea***: *lavandulacea* — from the genus *Lavandula*, lavender, i.e. like lavender.

Grevillea speciosa* subsp. *dimorpha: *speciosa* — from the Latin, meaning beautiful, splendid, handsome; *dimorpha* — from the Greek *dis*, double, and *morphe*, form or shape, referring to the two variants with different leaf forms.

Hakea bucculenta: *Hakea* — after Baron von Hake, a German patron of botany; *bucculenta* — from the Latin *bucca*, with full cheeks, probably referring to the swollen sides of the fruit.

Hakea rostrata: *rostrata* — from the Latin, having a beak or beaked, referring to the beak on the fruit.

Helmholtzia glaberrima: *Helmholtzia* — after Professor H.L.F. von Helmholtz (1821–1894), German physicist, anatomist and physiologist, an innovator in many fields of science; *glaberrima* — the superlative degree of the Latin *glaber*, bald or hairless, referring to the fact that the plant is quite glabrous.

Hibbertia empetrifolia: *Hibbertia* — after George Hibbert (1757–1837), a London merchant and patron of botany; *empetrifolia* — from the genus *Empetrum*, and the Latin *folium*, leaf, i.e. with leaves like those of *Empetrum*.

Indigofera australis: *Indigofera* — from indigo, a blue dye obtained from two tropical species (the name of the dye being derived from the Latin *indicus*, Indian), and *fero*, to bear; *australis* — from the Latin, southern.

Isopogon anethifolius: *Isopogon* — from the Greek *isos*, equal, and *pogon*, beard, referring to the nut which is hairy all over; *anethifolius* — from the Latin *anethum*, dill, and *folium*, leaf, i.e. leaves like those of dill.

Jasminum lineare: *Jasminum* — from the Arabic, *yasmin*, name of a kind of fragrant shrub; *lineare* — from the Latin, *lineare*, linear.

Lomandra longifolia: *Lomandra* — from the Greek *loma*, the border of a robe, and *andros*, male, referring to the bordered anthers of *L. longifolia*, the first species described; *longifolia* — from the Latin *longus*, long, and *folium*, leaf.

Lomatia myricoides: *Lomatia* — from the Greek *loma*, fringe or border of a robe, referring to the border on the wing of the seed; *myricoides* — from the Greek *myrice*, tamarisk, and the suffix, *-oides*, i.e. like tamarisk.

Lomatia tinctoria: *tinctoria* — from the Latin *tinctor*, dyer, referring to the fact that the scurfy layer on the seed dissolves in water to give a rose colour.

Melaleuca capitata: *Melaleuca* — from the Greek *melas*, black, and *leukon*, white colour — the reason for the use of the name is obscure; *capitata* — from the Latin *caput*, the head, referring to the inflorescence.

Melaleuca erubescens: *erubescens* — from the Latin *erubesco*, to blush, referring to the colour of the flowers.

Melaleuca spicigera: *spicigera* — from the Latin *spica*, a spike, and *gero*, to bear, referring to the inflorescence.

Micromyrtus ciliata: *Micromyrtus* — from the Greek *micros*, small, and *myrtos*, the myrtle; *ciliata* — from the Latin *cilium*, eye-lash, in botany, ciliate, fringed with fine hairs.

Pandorea pandorana: *Pandorea* — possibly relating to the legend of Pandora's box, of which the author of the name is said to have been reminded by the fruits, or it may be that the original species was connected with a plague of insects on Norfolk Island; *pandorana* — from Pandora and the Latin suffix *-anus*, relating to.

Persoonia pinifolia: *Persoonia* — after C.H. Persoon (1755–1837) born in South Africa, who worked in Paris, specialising in fungi; *pinifolia* — from the Latin *pinus*, fir or pine, and *folium*, leaf.

Pimelea ferruginea: *Pimelea* — from the Greek *pimele*, soft fat, possibly referring to the oily seeds or to the fleshy cotyledons; *ferruginea* — from the Latin, rust-coloured.

Prostanthera incana: *Prostanthera* — from the Greek *prosteke*, an appendage, and *andros*, male, referring to the spur-like appendage to the anther; *incana* — from the Latin *incanus*, quite grey, referring to the fact that the plant is covered with white hairs so that it appears quite grey.

Prostanthera lasianthos: *lasianthos* — from the Greek *lasios*, shaggy, and *anthos*, flower i.e. hairy flowers.

Prostanthera mellissifolia: *mellissifolia* — from the Greek and Latin *melissophyllon*, balm, and the Latin *folium*, leaf.

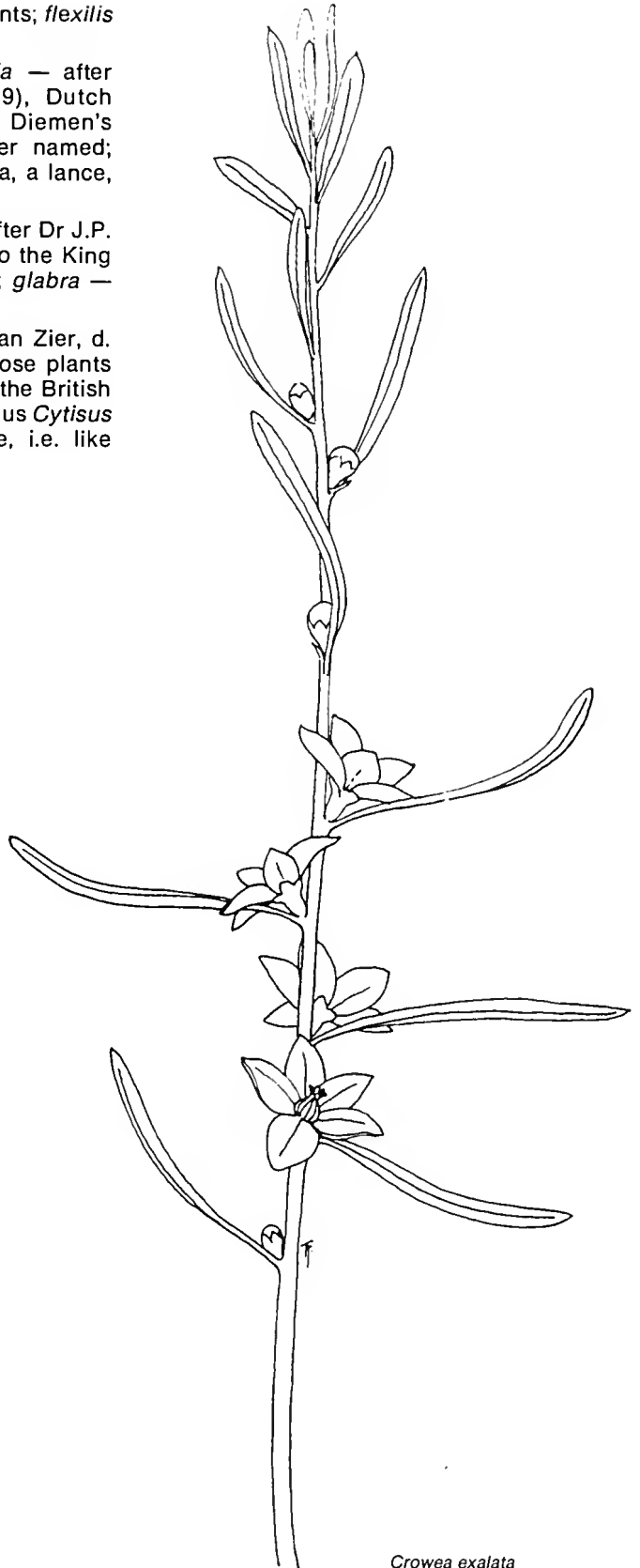
Pultenaea flexilis: *Pultenaea* — after Richard Pulteney (1730–1801), English botanist-

surgeon, who wrote on English plants; *flexilis* — from the Latin, flexible.

***Tasmannia lanceolata*:** *Tasmannia* — after Abel Jansen Tasman (1603–1659), Dutch navigator, who discovered Van Diemen's Land, and for whom it was later named; *lanceolata* — from the Latin *lancia*, a lance, referring to the leaves.

***Westringia glabra*:** *Westringia* — after Dr J.P. Westring (1753–1833), physician to the King of Sweden, and writer on lichens; *glabra* — from the Latin *glaber*, bald.

***Zieria cytisoides*:** *Zieria* — after Jan Zier, d. London 1796, Polish botanist, whose plants and manuscripts are now held by the British Museum; *cytisoides* — from the genus *Cytisus* and the Greek suffix *-oides*, like, i.e. like *Cytisus*.



Regelia ciliata



Distribution

Regelia ciliata is a small ornamental shrub which closely resembles *Melaleuca* and *Beaufortia*. It is included in the large family Myrtaceae. *Regelia* contains five species all of which are confined to the south-west of Western Australia.

R. ciliata grows naturally in low-lying sand flats which often become waterlogged in winter. However, unlike many Western Australian species which do not adapt readily in the soils and weather patterns of eastern Australia, *R. ciliata* will grow easily in most situations. It has a rigid spreading habit, growing to a height of 1.3 m to 1.5 m across with paper-like bark covering the stems. The small heart-shaped leaves are appressed to the stems and attractively arranged in opposite pairs.

The grey-green colour of the foliage provides a pleasing contrast to the mauve flowers which are produced over a prolonged period.

The flowers are borne in dense heads 20–50 mm across at the ends of short branchlets. Individual flowers have 5 spreading petals and numerous stamens which are united into 5 bundles opposite the petals. The grey capsular fruits are fused together in roughly globular clusters around the branches and remain on the plant for long periods.

R. ciliata is extremely hardy and is easily propagated from seed or cuttings. The fine seed is soon shed if the fruit is placed in a paper bag in a warm place. Seed germinates readily but plants take a number of years to flower. Plants grown from cuttings develop quickly and can produce flowers the following year. Tip cuttings taken in March/April produce roots within six weeks. Treat the cuttings with a suitable rooting hormone* such as IBA (indole butyric acid) 2000 ppm. This versatile plant will grow in full sun or shade, in damp or dry conditions and will withstand poor drainage. It responds well to periodic light pruning for shaping and to encourage bushiness. Keep the plant well mulched and fertilise with a complete fertiliser* in spring and autumn.



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* See Appendix

Anigozanthos

'Dwarf Delight'

Plants of the singularly arresting genus *Anigozanthos*, more commonly known as the kangaroo paws, are becoming widely recognised in horticulture as ornamentals and for their use in the cut flower trade. They are a group of perennial plants from Western Australia which have strap-shaped leaves and rhizomes.

Anigozanthos, which belongs to the family Haemodoraceae, includes eleven species. All are restricted to the south-west corner of Western Australia ranging from north of Geraldton on the west coast to east of Esperance on the south coast. The unique flowers are tubular and occur in colours of yellow to orange, red and green. Several flowers are grouped together at the end of long stems and, with their 5 protruding stamens, each looks like the paw of a kangaroo. Both flowers and stamens are clothed with velvety hairs. It is a delightful experience to watch honey-eating birds feeding on these plants. A very effective method of pollen exchange occurs as they plunge their beaks into the flowers to reach the nectar. As they brush past the protruding stamens they are dusted with pollen which they transfer to other flowers they visit. Honey-eaters may often be seen with yellow patches of pollen on their heads.

There are several outstanding *Anigozanthos* hybrids. The registered cultivar *Anigozanthos* 'Dwarf Delight' resulted from a cross between *A. onycis* and *A. flavidus* and bears some of the characteristics of both parents. It is a compact plant to 0.8 m tall with much branched flowering stems. These are covered with reddish hairs as are the greenish-yellow



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flowers, giving an overall impression of rich red flowers and stems. The strap-shaped leaves are up to 250 mm long by 10 mm wide.

This delightful plant is free-flowering and provides a bright splash of colour in the garden landscape particularly if planted in a rockery or when used as a border or tub plant. It shows excellent qualities for use in the cut flower trade because of its long stems and attractively coloured velvety flowers. As a vase plant the flowers can last from two to four weeks.

Problems have been experienced with a fungal disease known as 'ink spot' which affects the foliage of *Anigozanthos*. Attempts to eliminate this problem by hybridisation and tissue culture are giving positive results.

However, *Anigozanthos* 'Dwarf Delight' appears to be less prone to 'ink spot' and is easily propagated by division of the rhizomes or by tissue culture. It will grow in most soils in a well-drained sunny position but requires protection from snails when young. An application of a complete fertiliser* in autumn and spring will keep the plants healthy. Old leaves and flowering stems should be removed and it is advisable to lift the plants and divide them every two or three years.

* See Appendix



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Acacia iteaphylla



Distribution

Acacia iteaphylla occurs naturally in South Australia extending from the Flinders Ranges across to the Gawler Ranges and the Eyre Peninsula. Commonly called willow-leaf wattle, this shapely decorative shrub is hardy and fast growing and flowers intermittently throughout the year with a peak flowering period in spring. It is versatile in its habit growing to a height of 2–4 m with some forms becoming upright, whilst others are pendulous and bushy. Several specimens which are thriving in the Australian National Botanic Gardens are upright and multi-stemmed from ground level.

The slender phyllodes of *A. iteaphylla* are from 50–100 mm long and are broadly linear with a small gland at the base. They are blue-green in colour and arranged alternately, almost at right angles to the stems. The perfumed flower heads are produced in clusters of pale yellow balls which contrast pleasingly with the foliage. The buds are attractively enclosed by conspicuous pale, brown-tipped bracts. The flowers are followed by masses of flattened blue-green seed pods which become brown when mature.

A low growing form of *A. iteaphylla* has been recognised. It differs from other known forms in having low arching, slightly pendulous branches and grows to 0.5 m high by 4 m across. This plant, which originated as a variant in a batch of seedlings, has been registered as the cultivar *Acacia iteaphylla* 'Parsons Cascade'. To retain its low spreading growth habit it should be propagated only from cuttings as it will not necessarily breed true from seed.

A. iteaphylla grows best in a well drained sunny position. It is moderately frost



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tolerant and moderately salt tolerant. It can be propagated from cuttings taken between February and April. A rooting hormone* consisting of 4000 ppm IBA (indole butyric acid) has been effectively used at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Seed germinates readily but should be scarified or treated with boiling water before sowing.

Light pruning throughout the development of the plant will keep it vigorous and encourage bushiness. An application of a complete fertiliser* in spring and a slow release fertiliser* in autumn is also recommended. Pests noted on *A. iteaphylla* are the acacia bug, which rasps the leaf tissue causing brown lesions to appear on leaves and stems, and scale insects. Both can be controlled by spraying with Rogor.

* See Appendix

Ricinocarpus bowmanii



Distribution

Ricinocarpus bowmanii is a delightful small shrub which is ideally suited to growing in a rockery, as a specimen plant, or against a background of taller shrubs. In spring and early summer the whole bush is conspicuously laden with clusters of starry white or pale pink flowers which have inspired the name of 'pink wedding bush'.

This plant is a member of the large family Euphorbiaceae which has a world wide distribution. It is an extremely variable family and includes many species of commercial importance. Products such as rubber, dyes and oils are derived from some of its members.

There are about sixteen species in the genus *Ricinocarpus* with the majority occurring in Western Australia. *R. bowmanii* is common in woodlands and on hillsides west of the Great Dividing Range in Queensland and New South Wales. It is a stiff rounded shrub growing to 1 m high by 1 m across with slender branches. The narrow olive-green leaves are alternate, to 20 mm long, with margins which are usually recurved to the midrib. The undersurfaces of the leaves are paler with closely matted short hairs.

The flowers have 5 spreading petals and are unisexual having separate male and female flowers on the same plant. The male flowers are produced in terminal clusters of 3 to 6 whilst the female flowers are borne alone or within the male clusters. The fruit is a globular capsule which splits open when ripe to release 3 mottled seeds.

This desirable plant is hardy, drought resistant and moderately frost resistant.



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For successful cultivation it requires a sheltered, well drained position in full sun or part shade. Plants which are thriving in the Australian National Botanic Gardens have been planted in the Rockery in a mixture of coarse river sand and Australian peat moss, but they also grow in the natural soil.

R. bowmanii may be propagated from seed and cuttings. However, seed germination can be erratic and it is advisable to use fresh seed. Some success has been achieved by immersing the seeds in almost boiling water prior to sowing. Tip cuttings of half-ripened wood should be taken between January and March and can take up to eight weeks to strike. Cuttings should be treated with a rooting hormone* such as 500 ppm IBA (indole butyric acid) and 500 ppm NAA (naphthaleneacetic acid).

An application of a complete fertiliser* in spring and autumn will increase the vigour of the plant and light pruning throughout the plant's development will help to retain its bushy habit. A light mulch composed of leaf litter is also beneficial.

* See Appendix

Backhousia citriodora



Distribution

The genus *Backhousia* includes seven species, all of which are confined to the coastal rainforest areas of New South Wales and Queensland. Commonly referred to as 'myrtles' this group of plants, comprising trees and shrubs with strongly aromatic foliage, is included in the family Myrtaceae.

B. citriodora occurs naturally in the Queensland coastal forests from Brisbane to Mackay and is known by several vernacular names including lemon ironwood, lemon-scented myrtle and sweet verbena tree. It is a medium-sized shrub or tree, to 8 m tall with a low-branching habit. Often in cultivation small branches take root where they touch the ground. These branches are easily severed and replanted.

The leaves of *B. citriodora* are a fresh green colour and strongly lemon-scented.

They are attractively veined and oval or lance-shaped in outline, 50–100 mm long with slightly toothed margins and a pointed apex. The young foliage is reddish and the young shoots and undersides of the leaves are often hairy.

The very attractive white flowers are numerous and produced in long-stalked clusters. The outer part of an individual flower consists of a bell-shaped hairy receptacle with 5 persistent spreading calyx lobes. These are surmounted by 5 small petals about 5 mm long and numerous fluffy stamens which are twice as long as the petals.

The fruit is a nut-like capsule which contains several small seeds. These are occasionally released but are generally retained until the whole fruit falls from the tree.

B. citriodora is slightly frost-tender when young but can be grown outside in frosty areas provided it is planted in a sheltered position in semi-shade. Several specimens are thriving in the Australian National Botanic Gardens in the Rainforest Gully where some protection is provided by the tree canopy and surrounding shrubbery. Temperatures as low as -8°C have been recorded in this section of the Gardens during winter.

The best method of propagation is from tip cuttings taken in March. Roots will develop much more effectively if the bases of the cuttings are dipped in a rooting hormone* consisting of 500 ppm IBA (indole butyric acid) and 500 ppm NAA (naphthaleneacetic acid). The soil for planting should be rich, moist, well mulched and well composted.

B. citriodora has great potential for use in domestic gardens for its aesthetic value and fragrance. It is easily maintained and in addition can be used as a container plant for indoors.



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* See Appendix

Callicoma serratifolia



Distribution

Callicoma serratifolia is a plant of historic interest as the first timbers used for the wattle and daub huts of the early settlers were cut from these trees. This plant was common at that time around Sydney Cove. Because of the close resemblance of its flowers to those of *Acacia* it was then known as black wattle, a name which is now applied more appropriately to some true *Acacia* species.

This genus is in the small family Cunoniaceae and contains only one species which is confined to Australia. It grows naturally as a bushy shrub or small tree to 12 m high in protected moist gullies usually in close proximity to creeks. It occurs along the coastal areas of New South Wales from the Braidwood district to south-east Queensland. In cultivation it is an attractive ornamental small tree reaching a height of 6–10 m with a diameter of 3 m.

The bark of *Callicoma* is rough and dark brown with a pinkish brown inner layer. The serrated leaves which are a distinctive feature of this plant are 50–130 mm long, broadly lance-shaped and sharply pointed. They are smooth and shiny on the upper surface and pale with whitish or rust coloured hairs below with prominent raised veins. Additional interest is provided by the pale bronze colouring of the young foliage which is covered with fine rusty hairs.

The numerous small, pale yellow fluffy flowers are produced in dense globular heads on stalks 10–25 mm long, usually at the ends of the branchlets. It flowers in October and November. Individual flowers do not have petals but are com-



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posed of 4 or 5 small hairy sepals and numerous spreading stamens giving them a superficial resemblance to *Acacia*. The fruits are small hairy capsules produced in globular clusters. Each capsule contains a number of small seeds which are released when ripe, usually between December and January. The seeds germinate readily especially when fresh.

C. serratifolia can be grown from cuttings which strike easily when taken in March/April. Select half-ripened material and treat with a suitable rooting hormone*, e.g. 500 ppm IBA (indole butyric acid) and 500 ppm NAA (naphthaleneacetic acid).

This plant is frost tender when young and grows best in a shaded position in well composted soil. It requires plenty of moisture. Excellent specimens are growing in the Rainforest Gully at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

* See Appendix

Calytrix sullivanii



Distribution

Calytrix is an interesting member of the family Myrtaceae. Commonly called fringe myrtles this genus of shrubs is found only in Australia and contains seventy-two species. Most of the species occur in south-west Australia where the variation of flower colour is more marked than in eastern species.

Calytrix sullivanii is commonly called the Grampians fringe myrtle for it is confined to the Grampians area of Victoria. It is a neat, spreading shrub with numerous slender branchlets and grows to a height of 1.5 m. The fine crowded leaves are about 10 mm long tapering to a point, and fresh green in colour. They are borne alternately along the stems. The white flowers are sometimes tinged with pink and are produced in dense terminal clusters which cover the bush in spring. Individual flowers are 15 mm across and composed of 5 petals with pointed tips and numerous fluffy stamens. The 5 sepals bear small bristle-like extensions or awns and remain after the petals fall, colouring to a deep pink. The fruit is one-celled and usually contains a single seed.

C. sullivanii is hardy and can withstand periods of drought and frost. It can be used effectively as a feature plant or as a low hedge or screen plant. It does best in a sunny or semi-shaded position in soil which has been lightened by the addition of coarse river sand and compost. It responds well to pruning which should be carried out after flowering in spring and in autumn.

This plant is easily grown from cuttings although it can be grown from seed. Short tip cuttings should be taken in February/March and treated with a rooting hormone*. 2000 ppm IBA (indole butyric acid) is recommended.



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* See Appendix

Eriostemon verrucosus



Distribution

The genus *Eriostemon* includes some of the most attractive and most adaptable Australian plants in cultivation. This group of plants belongs to the family Rutaceae (which includes the citrus fruit trees). There are thirty-two species of *Eriostemon* and they occur only in Australia. All have aromatic leaves.

Eriostemon verrucosus is commonly called fairy waxflower and has often been confused with *E. obovalis*. Confined to the Blue Mountains area near Sydney, *E.*

obovalis has branchlets which are less warty than those of *E. verrucosus* and smaller, solitary flowers. *E. verrucosus* occurs naturally on poor stony ground and on dry hills in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. It is generally a small sprawling or upright shrub to 1.2 m often with arching branches. However, it has been recorded as growing to 2 m high in the Gippsland area of Victoria.

The branchlets of *E. verrucosus* have prominent glands, which give them a warty appearance. The aromatic leaves which are arranged alternately along the stems are smooth above and warty beneath and 6–15 mm long. The dainty white flowers are tinged with pink and produced at the end of the branches or in the leaf axils. The 5 petals are arranged in star-like fashion and the ten stamens enclose the pistil. The fruit consists of 5 segments, each containing one or two shiny black seeds which are ejected when the fruit ripens and splits open.

Difficulty has been experienced in germinating seeds. *E. verrucosus* can be propagated from half-hardened tip cuttings taken in March/April. The strike rate is very variable; some produce roots quickly whilst others can remain static for some time. Better results have been achieved by removal of the growing tip from cutting material. A suitable rooting hormone* consists of IBA (indole butyric acid) 2000 ppm.

E. verrucosus is frost hardy and reasonably drought tolerant. In cultivation it grows best in well drained soil in a dry, sunny or semi-shaded position.

Several double or multi-petalled forms of *E. verrucosus* have been found but the only one which has been registered as a cultivar is *E. verrucosus* 'J. Semmens' which has three layers of petals surrounding the stamens and ovary. This cultivar was found first on the property of the late J. Semmens in 1910. It grows to a height of 0.6 m by 0.6 m across and is often sparsely foliated. This plant must be propagated by cuttings if its form is to be retained.



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* See Appendix

Eucryphia moorei



Distribution

Eucryphia moorei is a small handsome tree or tall shrub which occurs naturally in cool temperate rainforest areas on the moist slopes of the coastal ranges in southern New South Wales and Victoria. It is generally found growing in sheltered areas in acid soils rich in organic matter.

The horticultural merit of *E. moorei* has not been widely recognised. Its slender, upright growth habit makes it ideally suitable for small domestic gardens in the sheltered environment of a courtyard or a small secluded corner. It grows to a height of 6–15 m and looks particularly attractive when laden with white blossoms from January to March.

Eucryphia is the only genus in the family Eucryphiaceae and it occurs only in the southern hemisphere with two species in Chile and three in Australia. *E. moorei* is commonly called pinkwood, plumwood or eastern leatherwood. The pale, pinkish-brown, close-grained timber was used by the early settlers for cabinet making and possibly axe and tool handles. It is related to the Tasmanian *E. lucida* which yields the highly prized leatherwood honey.

The bright green leaves which are paler on the undersurface have a tendency to spread horizontally. They are composed of 5 to 13 narrowly oblong leaflets which are 25–50 mm long. The stalked white flowers look somewhat like an open rose and are composed of 4 broad white petals and numerous fluffy stamens. They can be solitary or clustered in the upper leaf axils. The interesting flower buds are enclosed in a cap which is formed by the fusion of the sepals at their tips. The cap falls off when the flower opens. The fruit



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is a hard egg-shaped capsule 8–16 mm long which splits into segments when ripe to release the small winged seeds. The seed capsules ripen between February and April. They should be placed in a brown paper bag in a warm place until they split open. The capsules themselves are most attractive when they split and can be used in dried flower arrangements.

E. moorei is best propagated from seed. A mixture of one part loam, one part peat moss and one part sand is recommended as a potting medium. For the successful cultivation of this species well composted soil in a sheltered shaded position is essential. The soil should be kept moist during dry periods.

Callistemon *pallidus*



Distribution

There are thirty species in the genus *Callistemon* which is included in the family Myrtaceae. These distinctive plants which are commonly called bottlebrushes are a familiar sight in many gardens and there is always a place for one of them.

Callistemon pallidus, commonly called lemon bottlebrush, is a widely grown ornamental plant which has performed exceptionally well in cultivation and is useful as a specimen or screen plant.

It is an upright hardy shrub with slender spreading branches growing to a height of 3 m by 2 m across. The fresh lemon coloured brushes present a pleasing contrast to the grey-green foliage. This frost hardy plant will grow in moist situations in full sun or part shade and will withstand moderate exposure to salt laden winds.

C. pallidus is common on rocky sites of the eastern ranges and occurs naturally in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania. In the ACT it is a dominant species in heath on exposed mountain slopes.

The leaves are tapered to 50 mm long and dotted with oil glands. Young growth is often attractively covered with dense silky hairs, later becoming smooth. The flowers are borne in profuse cylindrical spikes 50–100 mm long and occur from September to January. Individual flowers have 5 sepals, 5 petals and numerous cream to greenish-yellow stamens. The cup-shaped fruit capsules are woody and contain numerous fine seeds.

C. pallidus may be propagated from seed or cuttings. When collecting seed, select old capsules and place them in a

warm area until they dry out and release the fine seeds. New growth which has hardened is suitable cutting material and should be taken in February/March. Cuttings should be treated with a rooting hormone* such as IBA (indole butyric acid) 2000 ppm.

This plant responds well to periodic pruning to encourage a bushier growth habit. Mulching and application of a complete fertiliser* in spring and autumn are recommended.

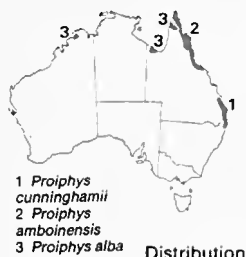
Some new cultivars of *C. pallidus* have been introduced into cultivation. These include *Callistemon pallidus* 'Austraflora Candle Glow' which has a low spreading habit and lemon brushes 75–100 mm long and *Callistemon* 'Clearview Father Christmas' which has flower spikes 110 mm long with whitish stamens and red anthers.

* See Appendix



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The genus *Proiphys*



The genus *Proiphys* belongs to the family Amaryllidaceae (the daffodil family) and comprises three species, *P. alba*, *P. amboinensis* and *P. cunninghamii*. The genus has been known as *Eurycles* for many years. These plants occur in light shaded areas of the rainforest or in open forest bordering rainforest regions, extending beyond Australia to South-East Asia.

Although these bulbous plants are not widely used in horticulture, the large, deeply-veined leaves which are produced on long petioles make them desirable garden subjects. The fragrant white flowers are produced in umbel-like clusters on long stems. They open in succession over a prolonged period and last well. The fruits that develop on the flower heads often germinate on the plant (new plants can be grown from these). They contain one to several fleshy seeds. Plants die back to an underground bulb during winter and should not be disturbed at this time.

Proiphys are ideally suited to warm frost-free areas and can be grown in a rockery, beside a garden pool or in pots or tubs in cooler regions. They are hardy and easily grown although development to the flowering stage is slow. They do best in well composted soil in sheltered areas of the garden with little sun.

P. amboinensis (syn. *Eurycles amboinensis*) is commonly called the Cardwell lily. It is one of the most attractive in the genus and occurs naturally in rainforest and coastal areas of northern Queensland from Mackay northwards and in the northern Kimberley area of Western

Australia and South-East Asia. The large kidney-shaped leaves are glossy with symmetrically curved venation. They are 200–300 mm long and 150–350 mm wide and carried on long stems 150–600 mm long. The white flowers which occur in summer have a yellow throat and are produced on stalks which can vary from 150–900 mm long.

P. alba (syn. *Calostemma album*, *Eurycles scott-selickiana*) occurs in large colonies in open forest in Queensland, the Northern Territory and the northern Kimberley region of Western Australia and Papua New Guinea. It is a hardy plant and very attractive when it is in flower between November and February. The light green leaves are the smallest of the genus and are 70–150 mm long by 5–7 mm wide, tapering at the base. The numerous white trumpet-shaped flowers are produced on erect stems 300–400 mm long. The fruit is globular and rather large.

P. cunninghamii (syn. *Eurycles cunninghamii*) is commonly called the Brisbane lily or Moreton Bay lily and is the only species confined to Australia. It has dark green heart-shaped leaves carried on long upright stems 100–250 mm long and 80–130 mm wide. It occurs naturally on the north coast of New South Wales and in south-eastern Queensland in lightly shaded conditions in the rainforest or forest bordering the rainforest.

To propagate sow the fruit in a sand/peat moss mixture 3:1 ratio to which a slow release fertiliser* has been added. The mixture should be about 100 mm deep to accommodate the root system. Allow plants to develop for several months before transplanting into a larger container or before planting out. Guard against snails in the early stages of development.

* See Appendix



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Proiphys cunninghamii

Daviesia mimosoides



Distribution

The large genus *Daviesia*, commonly known as bitter peas, has an Australia-wide distribution with about 110 species. Most occur in Western Australia where there are more than seventy species. They are included in the family Fabaceae, one of the three legume families, all of which have fruit known as a pod or legume. This large useful group of families has nitrogen-fixing bacteria in root nodules or small swellings on the roots, which benefit the soil wherever they flourish.

Dr Michael Crisp of the Australian National Botanic Gardens has studied the genus over a prolonged period and has introduced many species to cultivation.

Daviesia mimosoides, or narrow-leaf bitter pea, is a widespread variable shrub which is found growing in a variety of

habitats ranging in altitude from sea level to 1500 m. The distribution of the species extends from Maroochydore in southern coastal Queensland southwards through the coast and tablelands of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory to the eastern highlands of Victoria. It usually occurs in open forests dominated by a variety of eucalypts, although in coastal and mountainous areas it occurs in heath. In the southern mountainous regions of NSW and the ACT it often dominates much of the understorey.

D. mimosoides is very attractive when in flower and has colourful red stems when young. It has a multi-stemmed open habit growing to a height of 1-2 m. The alternate lance-shaped leaves which are 50-100 mm long are thick and rigid, resembling the foliage of some acacias, hence the name 'mimosoides'. The pea-shaped flowers, which are a familiar component of the Australian bushland, are yellow with a dark red or maroon infusion and are borne in 5 to 10 flowered clusters. They appear as early as August on the coast, finishing as late as December at high altitudes. The fruit is a triangular-shaped flattened pod.

D. mimosoides is hardy, quick-growing and green throughout the year. It is readily propagated from seed which should be scarified or treated with boiling water before sowing. Plants will grow in semi-shade but perform best in a well-drained sunny position which is well mulched. They respond to light pruning after flowering in the early stages of development. An application of a complete fertiliser* in spring and autumn is beneficial.

A particularly attractive form of *D. mimosoides* occurs in the New England area of New South Wales. It has arching branches and denser flower clusters with brighter yellow flowers than the more common form.



M. FAGG

* See Appendix

Appendix

A 'complete fertiliser' should supply the basic elements in acceptable proportions so it is advisable to check the specifications on the packet. A composition of approximately 10 per cent N (nitrogen) 47 per cent P (phosphorus) 6.7 per cent K (potassium) is generally safe for native plants if applied correctly. Most Australian soils tend to have low phosphorus levels and native plants are adapted to them. Many species will not grow well, and may even be killed, if treated with fertilisers with a high phosphorus content.

A 'slow release fertiliser' provides an effective and convenient method of fertilising, e.g. Osmocote, Nutricote. The small pellets contain a balance of essential nutrients which are slowly released into the soil through the semi-permeable walls of the pellets over a period of time. This process generally occurs when there is an increase in temperature and when moisture is applied. Rates of dispersal can vary from 3-4 months to 8-9 months. The latter form is the most suitable for garden or pot culture. Pellets can be dug in or applied to the soil surface.

A 'rooting hormone' usually promotes quicker rooting of cuttings and a better root system. Rooting hormones are generally available from nurseries or garden centres in a powdered form in different concentrations for soft, medium or hardwood cuttings. At the Australian National Botanic Gardens liquid forms have been found to be more effective but are not readily available commercially. The concentrations mentioned in these articles have been used successfully in the Gardens' nursery. (The base of the cuttings only should be dipped in the rooting hormone.)

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M. FAGG

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M. FAGG

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